



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5
Election
JB
2/19/02

In re Application of:

Masaharu AMANO et al.

Serial No.: 09/725,314

Filed: November 29, 2000

For: BUCKET TOOTH AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

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FEB 14 2002

GROUP 3600

Group Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Nathan S. MAMMEN

**RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
DATED JANUARY 11, 2002**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: February 11, 2002

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated January 11, 2002.

In the Action, restriction is required among Group (I), claims 1 - 6, drawn to a bucket tooth comprising an axial force fluctuation means; Group (II), claims 7 - 11, drawn to a bucket tooth with a tapered bearing surface; or Group (III), claims 12-15, drawn to a method for manufacturing a warped bucket tooth.

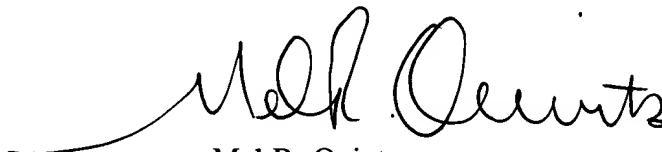
Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group (I), claims 1-6 for prosecution in this application. This election is made without traverse, it being understood that the applicants right to the filing of Divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter under 35 USC §120 and 35 USC §121 are retained.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

In the event any additional fees are required in connection with this response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel R. Quintos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,898

Atty. Docket No. 001337

1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 659-2930
Fax: (202) 887-0357

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